

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER

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Donald B. Hamilton, Advertising Manager

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DEMOLITION FOR
PEACE

Our war-machine is now op-
erating backward, so that even if
it had no brakes, as a paragraph
once remarked, it seems at least
to have a reverse lever. The peo-
ple who complained that we were
"not getting into the war fast
enough" are now beginning to
say that we are too slow in get-
ting out. But they are reminded
by various editors that the task
of putting four million soldiers
back into civil life and replacing
the nation's business on a peace
basis is no simple task. The fact
that our men were just beginning
to fight makes our problem easier
in one way than that of our Allies,
Mr. Charles H. Grasty writes from
Paris to the New York Times.
Four years of war, he observes,
have transformed Frenchmen,
Italians and Englishmen into sol-
diers; "our adaptable men have
taken hold of war enthusiastically
and efficiently, but nine out of
ten of them are still essentially
unchanged and will go back as
eagerly to work as before the war."

"How soon will the boys come
back?" is a question which is being
asked eagerly and anxiously by parents
and friends of the men who have com-
pleted our military authorities
have answered that the men will
be returned as soon as possible. But
that it is explained, does not mean
at once. The Grande Rapids Herald
recalls that between the last battle
of armistice and final demobilization
of troops there elapsed in the Rus-
sian War thirteen months; in the
Boer War ten months; in the Span-
ish-American War, sixteen months;
in the Turkish War, eighteen months;
in the Franco-Prussian War, twenty-
eight months; in our own Civil
War, seventeen months. The Michi-
gan editor comments:

"In none of these other strug-
gles were there any such post-war
polishing problems as confront us
today; and in none of these wars
was there any such tremendous
bulk of men involved as so great
a distance from the homeland.
Offsetting these contemplations is
the fact that our Government has
learned the art of working human
miracles since a year ago last
April. Our Government is con-
stantly accomplishing the seem-
ingly impossible. Nevertheless, sanity
compels us to look probabilities
in the face and these probabilities
warn us that if our whole Army
is demobilized in twelve months
it will be a comparative record
surpassing anything in the story
of mankind."

Of the 2,293,369 American soldiers in
Europe, it is generally estimated that
half will be needed for occupation
duties in Germany and elsewhere. The
homeward movement of the others has
already begun. Construction in France
has been stopped and contracts for
army supplies cancelled. The actual
homeward shipment of the men will
be delayed by the necessity for using both
the French railroads and the avail-
able merchant marine for the ship-
ment of food and other supplies to
those who need it, while Great Britain
will want her own ships for sending
home her colonial armies. The first
men to come home will be the sick
and the convalescing wounded men
who will come home in various auxiliary ser-
vices, such as aviators, tank and tank
trains, and replacement units. The
combat troops will follow either in
units or on a geographical basis. In
any event, says General March, they
will not "smash into the country." By
spring, some peace will be in the
air. The United States Army except the
troops needed for police duty in Eu-
rope will be on the way home.

The army of occupation, many of our
editors believe, will be in Europe for
months, perhaps for a year. The
Christianity (N. Y.) Mail column on
this, "The last is not yet over," and
Germania must be faced to accept the
peace terms. This paper thinks that
the work of occupation in Germany
should be done mainly by the United
States, which has had fewer losses
than any other nation. The New
York Evening Sun similarly demands
that we should be the chief share of
the police duty. "We left most of the
work of saving the world's civiliza-
tion to others," it says; "let us not

drop our smaller part of the burden
before the job is done." The Chris-
tianity News reminds us that the
German Army is still intact and has
not surrendered its small arms and
warms us that the Army may renew the
war in the German people may them-
selves find it in the future order.
Then, says the Tribune, Capital, there
is Russia to be saved, and it expects
a large American army to be main-
tained in Europe and Asia "for a matter
of years than months." The Wash-
ington Post does not believe the
American troops now on German soil
will have "too many years." If we
American occupation in German terri-
tories may seem "preposterous" at this
moment, but "how will it sound at the
end of the twenty-year period when
Germany has repaid only one-fifth or
one-tenth of the enormous debt that
she owes to the world?" The Char-
leston News and Courier, on the other
hand, wants a minimum of police work
and does not consider it "our business
or that of our allies to use armies in
order to establish in Central Europe
any particular government or form of
government." It will be remember-
ed that after our entrance into the war
Mr. Hearst's papers declared im-
mediately sending any of our boys to
take part in a European quarrel, and
our readers may be interested in
knowing their attitude now. They de-
mand that the government should ac-
cording to the New York Tribune, "The
New York American declares that the
chief object in the war is accomplished;
it observes that our associates, great
and small, will get territorial or other
compensations, and argues that—

"If the United States is too
foreign to Europe to have any part
of its war-costs reimbursed out of
Europe's assets, it very rea-
sonably follows that the United
States is also foreign enough to
Europe to be under no earthly obli-
gation to increase Europe's assets
by carrying on the expensive
work of policing European states
which are in disorder."

"Let the European governments
which are pocketing the gains of
the war we won for them pay the
cost of their own police forces."

The problem to be faced in de-
mobilizing the 1,750,000 men in the
camps in this country are of a similar
nature, at least in the great difficulty
in reabsorbing them into industry.
This difficulty is being met by their
gradual demobilization and by the co-
operation of the Government and
private employers in retraining and
employment. On November 16, General
March issued orders for the demobiliza-
tion of the first 200,000. His plan to
release them by military units has
been modified, according to the Wash-
ington correspondents, after confer-
ence between the Secretary of War,
the Secretary of Labor, and some of the
Government's special labor authorities.
It has now been decided, according to
the New York Tribune's correspondent,
to discharge the men according to ter-
ritorial and occupational classifications.

First of all, the soldiers from
the great agricultural States will be
released as soon as possible to help
meet the farm-labor shortage. Indus-
trial groups will then be demobilized
in the following order:

"First—Immediate release of all
men who were employed in food-
production.

"Secondly—Early release of all
skilled men in ship-building trades
or adaptable to them.

"Thirdly—Discharge of men
who were on railroads or who were
employed in the manufacture of
railroad supplies.

"Fourthly—Miners, especially
the anthracite coal-miners.

"Fifthly—All keymen in indus-
try, such as managers of business,
executives, technical experts, prop-
rietary of business, etc.

"Sixthly—Men who are self-
supporting, professional men and
all others who are likely to be able
to look out for themselves, and all
men who are promised or are cer-
tain of jobs."

In order that there may be work for
every man as he leaves the War In-
dustries Board is sending out question-
naires to employers asking about their
needs for men. At the same time the
draft boards which inducted the men
into military service are being made
use of to see that the men are helped
into the right jobs when they go home.
The United States Employment Ser-
vice is making a survey of the labor
situation in industrial centers. The
president of the National Association
of Manufacturers expects every dis-
charged soldier to find a warm wel-
come when he seeks employment at his
former work and says:

"The one outstanding obligation
of every manufacturer now is to
be ready to take back into his
plant the men who dropped their work
to place their lives at the disposal
of the nation. It is their plain
duty to have an 'open door'
for a return to opportunity and
prosperity of every American sol-
dier and sailor who seeks to re-
turn to his former employment and
occupation."

The draft boards and employers of
Illinois will see to it that "the 175,000
soldiers and sailors from Chicago will
get their jobs back or be promoted to
better ones," according to a dispatch
to the New York World. This paper
has telegraphed to a number of the
largest employers of the country, and
asks that prospects without expec-
tion of qualification they will have
room for every employee who has been
absent in war-service. Some of the
concerns making such statements are:
The Standard Oil Company of New
Jersey, Armour & Company, Marshall
Field & Company, the National Cash
Register Company, the International
Pulp Company, the Goodyear Tire and
Rubber Company, the American Wheel
Company, and the Maxwell Motor
Company.

Not all this willingness to provide
jobs would be of no avail if there
was no work to be done. Prospects,
says the Indianapolis News, and
scores of its contemporaries agree
are for "a period of unusual prosperity
with plenty of work for all." For one
thing, "the withdrawal of war-orders
ought to be almost completely offset
by the increased demands for peace
goods which have been shown aside
for four years." The New York Times
points out that—

"Construction enterprises of
both public and private nature,
which have been in abeyance for a
couple of years or more, will call
for the employment of hundreds of
thousands of men. The great
ship-building plants, an entirely
new industry, will continue in full

blast. Work for foreign recon-
struction will also require the ser-
vices of all kinds of handicrafts-
men, and the need of clothing in
different foreign countries will help
keep busy the textile-mills, shoe-
factories, and other establish-
ments."

"Then, too, there is another
aspect of the labor situation. In
normal times it was necessary to
keep getting new human working
material from abroad in order to
meet the growing needs of the
country. This immigration has
virtually ceased. In the year 1914
more than 1,200,000 foreigners
came here, and there was no diffi-
culty in absorbing them. Why
there should be great commotion
in absorbing a few million return-
ing Americans coming back gradu-
ally, especially as there is now
an efficient organization for as-
suring employment for them, which
was not the case with regard to
the immigrants?"

We are reminded by the financial
editor of the New York Tribune that
there is an estimated shortage of three
million of farm-laborers and that all
farm-workers who went into the Army
or the munition factories are sure to
be re-employed on the farms. Young
Americans who have joined the Navy
and wish to continue a sailor's life will
find an opportunity awaiting them in
our new merchant marine. The Dallas
News points out—

"The United States Government is
preparing through its War Labor
Policy Board a program of after-war
readjustment intended to prevent un-
employment, lowering of labor stand-
ards and wages, and possible business
depression. The first step in this
program, as the New York Tribune's Wash-
ington correspondent is to be the im-
migration of public works on a large
scale, including irrigation and reclamation
projects, highways, waterways,
and railroads construction. An appeal
is to be sent to States and munici-
palities to resume at once all public
work which had been curtailed or
abandoned because of the war. In the
third place, the War Finance Board,
the Capital Issues Committee, the Fed-
eral Reserve Board, and Congress will
be asked to co-operate in the conver-
sion of war-plants to peace plants.

The curtailed and suppressed "non-es-
sential" industries will be helped to get
back to normal as soon as possible.
Soldier labor and war-work labor are
to be diverted to the farms as far as
possible. Finally, it is planned to
utilize our soldiers abroad as long as
possible in the labor of reconstruction
in Europe."

Besides the soldiers, there is the
great army of workers in War-Indus-
try. For their sake and for the sake
of their employers there is to be, ac-
cording to Assistant Secretary of War
Crawford, "a tapering off of war-work,
giving time for industrial readjust-
ment and for the industry to take up
civilian work." Brigadier General (ret.)
E. Tripp, who has just returned to his
duties with the Westinghouse Com-
pany, declares that the transition to a
peace basis will be "largely accom-
plished within six months."—From Lit-
erary Digest.

TEXAS PRESS

TEXAS GOES FORWARD—

"Good" is the word the Federal Re-
serve Bank uses to describe the busi-
ness outlook in the eleventh reserve
district. All will agree that it is. But
also men of greater optimism than
bankers permit themselves to indulge
in will feel that the prospect deserves
to be characterized by a more glowing
adjective. Certainly as to Texas, which
is almost the whole of the eleventh
reserve district, the outlook must seem
to be something than merely "good."
One could find several reasons for the
opinion that Texas faces the brightest
prospect it has known in a decade. Of
course much is contingent on the crop
return. But we may count on that
rather confidently, both for the reason
that the soil is in better condition now
over the whole expanse of Texas, than
it has been in three years. What is
of equal assurance, we have the cer-
tainty that the prices of all farm prod-
ucts will continue high, even though
they should decline somewhat below
present levels, and as to cotton, we
know from experience that when the
crop is short the price goes up cor-
respondingly, so that the unfortunate fall
in little on the producers. It is
worthy of remark parenthetically that
Texas is not so dependent now for its
prosperity as it used to be on the crop
outturn. There is a reminder of this
fact in the statement made by Mr.
Seth Adams Gentry, the other day,
that the value of Texas oil production
has come to be almost half the value
of its agricultural production. Just
what the rank of the oil industry in
Texas has probably not been determined,
but it has undoubtedly become far more
important than most of us have imag-
ined.

Texas could count on a year of ex-
traordinary prosperity even if it should
have only its share of that which is
bound to come to the country as a
consequence of the war's ending. A
great quickening and expansion of
business is inevitable, both because of
the imperative need to repair the dam-
age done by the war throughout the
world and because of the buoyancy
which peace has given to the spirits of
men everywhere who plan the great
projects whose execution marks the
world's economic progress. Thousands
of enterprises which the war put in
abeyance have been revived by peace,
and the confidence of the nation will
employment for everyone who wants
to work. Texas will be no exception;
in fact, enterprise is apt to be more
greatly revived here than in most
states, because, being so rigidly ad-
justed to the requirements of peace,
our industry has been more than nor-
mally slowed down by the conditions
of war. In the matter of building
alone there is certain to be a great
impetus. There is hardly a city and
large town in the state that has not
outgrown its housing. Building opera-
tions will be limited chiefly by the
supply of labor, and that fact assures
an abundance of employment at high
wages. The difficulty here and every-
where will not be to find employment
for men seeking labor, but to find men
for employment seeking labor.—Gal-
veston News.

The diet during and after influenza,
Horlick's Malted Milk, nourishing, di-
gestible.—Advt.

SOME LATE ONES

No disputing Tastes

Miss Prior, a charity worker, was
visiting a certain woman in a small
country town. Four little children in
the family all exclaimed Miss Prior
to the mother: "It seems that all your
children have trouble with their eyes."
"There ain't nothing the matter with
their eyes, ma'am," said the mother.
"Then why do you disfigure them
with those glasses?" asked the visitor.
"In three hours time the sailor came
back, looking hot but happy."

Clanking over the gate in the field,
the farmer saw the sheep safely in the
field. "There's a hare sitting up
among 'em," he exclaimed.
"Do you mean that little fellow
there?" asked his neighbor. "Why, that's
the little fellow who gives me all the
trouble. I thought it was a lamb!"

Refused to Disperse.
A young Irish constable the first
time he was placed on beat arrested a
man for disorderly conduct. When
telling the judge the police court he
was asked by the magistrate:

"Did you give this man warning be-
fore taking him into custody?"
"Oh, did, yer honor. Oh, did to him,
'Disperse!' an' he ransomed."—Boston
Transcript.

Double Returns.
I dug up my last ten-spot and I put
it in a bond and Baker put it into
shells and sent it over the pond. A
fisherman had picked up a shell and
sent it in a gun that sent it screech-
ing through the sky with message for
the Hun. The ship arrived in Britain's
midst just as his German finger
reached out to fire a shell of gas and
give our boys a blinger. That blinger
shell will never start to miss a Yankee
boy and every time I miss that ten
my heart's a seal of joy. I know I
only found it and it's going to be paid
back but I'd be glad to lose it just
to give the Hun that crack—H. B.
Milward, in Over the Top.

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reached out to fire a shell of gas and
give our boys a blinger. That blinger
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